



California Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans News

Contact: J.P. Tremblay
Jerry Jones
Jaime Arteaga
Legislation and Public Affairs
916-653-2192
Fax 916-653-2611
August 16, 2006

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

Remarks made by Governor Schwarzenegger on August 15, 2004 at the Military Order of the Purple Heart's National Convention in Los Angeles. Governor Schwarzenegger presented the Purple Heart medal to Staff Sergeant Richard Sanchez, Sergeant Nicholas Weber, Specialist Caston Marrujo, Sergeant Mario Cortez, and Specialist Anastacio Lopez.

Governor Schwarzenegger Presents Purple Heart to California Soldiers

Well, all I can tell you is it's great to be here today. And just the last speech I gave, my wife came up to me and said, "Arnold, this was terrific. You're becoming more and more Kennedyesque." I said, "What does that mean? You mean I talk like John F. Kennedy, or I talk like Robert Kennedy?" She says, "No, you're gaining weight like Teddy Kennedy." (Applause)

I tell you, can't get no respect at home.

But this is really great, I tell you. What an enthusiastic crowd that we have here today. And I want to thank Henry for the great introduction, and it's great to be here today with all of you tonight at the 74th National Convention of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. And it's really a great privilege, I have to tell you, and it's a great honor for me to be in the same room with so many Purple Heart veterans. And on behalf of all Californians, I want to say thank you to all of you for your courage, for your service, and for your sacrifice. I know a little bit about action heroes. I played action heroes in the movies. But let me tell you something, you are true action heroes, the real action heroes. (Applause)

And all of you here have earned the Purple Heart, the one military honor reserved for those brave men and women who have fought and have sacrificed and have shed blood for this great, great country. And it's because of you that we can live in a country free of tyranny and oppression, and have the liberty and the opportunity to pursue the American Dream.

And I know a little bit about the American Dream, because when I was a kid at the age of 15, I wanted to come to America and live the American Dream. And I was able to come over here at the age of 21, and I have seen firsthand what a generous country this is, and how this is the land of opportunity. And everything that I have achieved in my life, every single thing, if it is the bodybuilding career, the movie career, my wonderful family, the greatest wife that anyone can ever dream of, all of this because of this great country, because this is the land of opportunity.

But I will never forget that it is because of you, because of the brave men and women that have fought for hundreds of years to defend this country, and to defend the freedom and to defend the democracy. That's why

people like me can be successful here. And so I want to say thank you, as an immigrant, to all of you. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for what you have done.

And this is why today, as Governor, I'm so proud to say that California is the home to 28,000 Purple Heart veterans. That is the most of any state, the most Purple Heart veterans that we have, than in any state. I love that, as governor, to have the most, and to be No. 1. This is really great. (Applause)

And so tonight I am honored to award the Purple Heart to five more brave and deserving soldiers from the California National Guard. Their's are such amazing stories. On the way over here I read through the stories of those five recipients, and they are spectacular.

And so I want to say on behalf of all Californians, thank you for all the courage that you have shown, and thank you for the great work that you have done and for your bravery. You are an inspiration to all of us. Thank you very much.

And now let's pin the Purple Hearts. Thank you. (Applause)



The video of the Governor's speech at the Military Order of the Purple Heart's National Convention can be viewed at <http://gov.ca.gov/>.

Note to editors: This News for Veterans and previous CDVA news for veterans, news releases, and advisories are available on our website at www.cdva.ca.gov and via e-mail from jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov.